

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 21, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on February 15, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spill Emergency Response (Diesel Fuel Release), Sea Scout Ship #101 Sinking, Michigan City, Indiana

On February 9, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On Scene Coordinator (OSC) Sonia R. Vega responded to a diesel fuel release in Michigan City, Indiana. The release was caused by the sinking of Sea Scout Ship #101 into Trail Creek. Sea Scout Ship #101, called The Little Murphy, is a tug boat used by the LaSalle Council of the Boy Scouts of America for training purposes. It docked at the Trail Creek Marina. The release was initially reported to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), who contacted the U.S. EPA and the tug boat operators. Upon arrival, at 1330 hours (1:30 pm), OSC Sonia Vega met with representatives from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the USCG, the potentially responsible party (PRP), the LaPorte County Hazardous Materials Team, and the cleanup contractor on scene. An estimated 100 gallons of diesel fuel were spilled into Trail Creek. The boat had about 500 gallons in the tank at the time. Approximately 200 gallons were pumped out of the vessel by the PRP before any response activity took place in an attempt to prevent further releases. The PRP retained the cleanup contractor to salvage the vessel and cleanup the spilled fuel using absorbing materials and vacuum trucks. OSC Sonia Vega left site at 2005 hours (8:05 pm), as the IDEM

representative continued to monitor the cleanup activities. Per phone message from the USCG, the cleanup was almost completed, and the vessel was up on February 10, 2002.

Contact: Sonia Vega (312-886-7191)

Time Critical Removal Start, Mi-Hi Site, Jackson, Michigan

On February 4, 2002, U.S. EPA Region 5 initiated a removal action at the Mi-Hi site in Jackson, Michigan. The site is located at an abandoned stamping plant and is subject to Brownfields redevelopment following the removal of hazardous waste by U.S. EPA and demolition by the township using a State of Michigan grant. The site property contains approximately 400 drums of wastes in various stages of decay, 29 in ground pits full of various liquids and oils, a number of above-ground tanks and totes, leaking polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) containing electrical equipment, damaged mercury switches, and potentially asbestos containing insulation. Site setup (demarcation of support zone, contaminant reduction zone, and exclusion zone) has been completed. Securing of waste containers, staging, and sampling plans have been initiated. Site security has been established. The removal is expected to take ten weeks.

Contact: Partap Lall (734-692-7685)

Complaint Filed, Fleming Companies, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota

On February 8, 2002, the U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued an Administrative Complaint against Fleming Companies, Inc. ("Fleming"), Minneapolis, Minnesota, for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), and the Minnesota State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), of a release of 750 pounds of ammonia which occurred from this facility on August 15, 2000. In addition, Fleming did not submit a written follow-up report to the SERC as soon as practicable after the release. The release occurred when a pressure relief valve on the roof of the building over pressurized. The release did migrate beyond the facility's boundaries causing more than 300 people to be evacuated. Nineteen people from a neighboring warehouse were monitored for symptoms of exposure. Ammonia is a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance and an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) extremely hazardous substance with a reportable quantity of 100 pounds. This release was 7.5 times the reportable quantity. Fleming notified the NRC more than 15 hours

after the release occurred, never notified the SERC, and never submitted the written follow-up report. The complaint proposes a \$113,097 penalty for the three violations. Fleming has 30 days to respond to the complaint

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan Inspections, Garrett, Indiana, and Ypsilanti, Michigan

On February 12 and 13, 2002, Tien Yang and Bob McCoy, Senior Environmental Employment Program (SEEP) Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Inspectors, Oil Planning & Response Section, helped conduct inspections in facilities in Indiana and Michigan at the request of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). These were troublesome oil spill cases for these agencies and they turned to U.S. EPA for help.

The first facility, a locomotive fuel storage and dispensing operation, is operated by CSX and Petroleum Marketing in Garrett, Indiana. The second facility, an automatic transmission manufacturing and assembly facility, is operated by General Motors Drivetrain in Ypsilanti, Michigan. During the inspections, both facilities committed to come into total compliance with the SPCC regulation and actions are currently underway to accomplish these goals. Unfortunately the spill issue for General Motors has not been resolved since it falls under the Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations, and not the Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 112 (40CFR112) SPCC Regulation. Now that MDEQ has a better handle on their options they will take the appropriate actions to resolve their spill case.

Contacts: Tien Yang (312-886-0850)
Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)

Post-Remediation Sediment Monitoring, Oconomowoc Electroplating Company, Inc., Superfund Site, Ashippun, Wisconsin

On January 28 and 29, 2002, Superfund Ecologists (David Brauner and Brenda Jones) and Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support (FIELDS) Associates (Nina Yeskis and Ginger Lukowski) visited the Oconomowoc Electroplating Company, Inc., Superfund site in Ashippun, Wisconsin. This was a follow-up trip to mark the locations for sediment sampling in the restored wetlands as part of a long-term, post-remediation, chemical and

biological monitoring study currently funded by the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR). The chemical and biological monitoring is similar to work done during the remedial investigation/feasibility study. The randomly-determined locations had been previously generated by FIELDS after the boundaries of the site had been determined in a previous trip to the site (September 12, 2001). The sampling locations were found using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Due to unfavorable conditions (i.e., lack of a solid ice-cover in many places), some of the locations had to be moved to accessible areas. This was acceptable as the purpose of the study is to determine the current conditions at the site (i.e., if the remediation completed in 1995 was successful) and not to make statistical comparisons to previous sampling efforts. Personnel from Lockheed Martin, Response, Engineering, and Analytical Contract (REAC) contractors, and the Environmental Response Team (ERT) were present to perform the sampling. Photo-documentation was done of the activities at the site.

Contacts: David Brauner (312-886-1526)
Nina Yeskis (312-886-0931)

Meeting (Brownfields Funding Pursuit), Joslyn Site, City of Franklin Park, Illinois

On February 13, 2002, Brooke Furio met Jeffery Eder, the Director of Economic Development for the Village of Franklin Park, Illinois, to discuss the cleanup and redevelopment of the Joslyn site. Several attorneys representing the Village, the Director of the West Central Municipal Conference, and the Chief Executive Officer of Real Estate Recycling (the developer) were also in attendance. The discussion surrounded the proposed redevelopment of the Joslyn site and the pending rerouting of the Indiana Harbor Belt Rail Road and the Wisconsin Central Rail Road. The Village is interested in pursuing funding from the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program to help pay for some of the environmental assessment and cleanup work that will be needed. The Village has held a discussion about potential liability issues concerning the site.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Manistee Lake Tribal Meeting, Manistee, Michigan

On February 5, 2002, representatives of Superfund Division, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), Water Division, and the Regional Team Manager for Sediments met with Tribal staff from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to discuss overall issues with respect to Manistee Lake water quality and ecosystem impacts. The Tribe's interest in a holistic approach to lake problems surfaced during the negotiations for the Tribal Environmental Agreement in November 2001. The Packaging Corporation of America National Priorities List Superfund site is in the lake watershed, as are numerous operating industries and salt production wells. All of these historical uses may be having an impact. A recent GLNPO-funded study began to explore conditions in the lake and its fish. Two-thirds of the lake area lies within the reservation boundaries. This lake feeds into Lake Michigan through a short channel. Each program discussed possible programs and funding sources which may be brought to bear on the problems facing the lake. Follow-up discussions with the Tribe are planned in March 2002. Both the Tribe and the City of Manistee have submitted separate Brownfields Assessment Grant proposals focusing on a number of sites with former industrial uses on the shore of Lake Manistee.

Contacts: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)
John Fagiolo (312-886-0800)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

The Second Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Workshop, Waukegan, Illinois

On February 6 and 7, 2002, U.S. EPA hosted the second Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Workshop for five of the seven second round pilots. Municipalities that received the second round of \$100,000 Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) grants, but were unable to attend the first Superfund Redevelopment Workshop in Chicago in October 2001, were in attendance at the Ramada Inn, Waukegan, Illinois. The Stakeholder Involvement Process, Integrating Cleanup and Redevelopment, and Risk Management for redeveloping contaminated properties were the three main topics of discussion. In addition to the three main topics presented by U.S. EPA Headquarters (John Harris, Region 5 Superfund Redevelopment Coordinator, and Vita Nuova), a fourth topic which provided valuable information on leveraging additional funds to assist with redevelopment was presented. Presentations, including the use of Prospective Purchasers Agreements and other tools to remove barriers to redevelopment by Peter Fellitti, were

followed by breakout sessions to directly apply workshop discussions to site-specific concerns and issues regarding redevelopment. Information and advice from experienced members at the redevelopment workshop, including Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) and Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs), was used to produce a draft site-specific Redevelopment Action Plan by the Municipalities and their consultants. Special thanks to RPMs Rosita Clark, Matt Ohl, Fred Bartman, Ross Delrosario, and Steve Padovani; and, CICs Briana Bill, Leo Rosales, and Stuart Hill for their most valuable participation.

Contact: Thomas Bloom (312-886-1967)

Local Emergency Planning Committee Exercise Kick-Off Meeting, Mason, Michigan

On February 7, 2002, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), and Brian Kelly, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor, met with the Ingham County, Michigan, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to initiate the process for conducting a "table top" exercise of the LEPC Chemical Emergency Contingency Plan. The LEPC Chair, Sargent Mike Perez of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, chaired the meeting which was attended by 15 other representatives of LEPC member organizations. Ms. Bonnie Fighter represented the Michigan State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Mr. Cekus explained that the concept of the exercise program was to have a local chemical facility volunteer the use of its Clean Air Act Amendments Risk Management Plan alternative release scenario as the focal point of the exercise. The response actions found in the LEPC plan would be exercised using a "table top" style simulation. The Alexander Chemical Company volunteered the use of their alternative risk scenario for this program. Sargent Perez also plans to have his staff give a demonstration of the communication capabilities of the County Emergency Operations Center in conjunction with the exercise. The START contractor will work with Alexander Chemical and the various LEPC member organizations to design and conduct the exercise. After the meeting, Mr. Cekus and Mr. Kelly were invited to visit the Alexander Chemical facility to gain a better idea of the area businesses and local community that will be addressed in the exercise scenario.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

U.S. EPA Presentation, First Annual Global Conference, Biological/Chemical Terrorism, Crystal City, Virginia

On February 13, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Mark Durno participated in the Emergency Response Program in the First Annual Global Conference on Bio/Chem Terrorism in Crystal City, Virginia. U.S. EPA assisted in presenting "Lessons Learned from the Cleanup of the U.S. Capitol and Congressional Offices." The session offered an overview of the time-line, unified command, and technical approach to the response; but, focused in more detail on the challenges and lessons learned in responding to a weapons-grade anthrax release in an office building complex. The session was very well received and generated quality discussion during the question and answer period.

The goal of the sold-out conference was to bring together key practitioners and decision makers who can share information regarding the latest and most effective tactics, techniques, and resources available in responding to and preparing for acts of domestic terrorism. The conference was attended by military, civilian governmental, educational, and private corporate personnel.

For further information, the conference website (bioterrorism-defense.com) Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is:

<http://www.bioterrorism-defense.com>.

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cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
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Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers